

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR



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Feb. 1, 2011

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Gov. Perdue Appoints Former Congressman Bob Etheridge to Lead North Carolina's Recovery Office

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue today announced that Bob Etheridge, former U.S. Representative from North Carolina's 2nd Congressional District, will take office today as the director of the Office of Economic Recovery and Investment. Etheridge replaces Dempsey Benton, who stepped down after leading the office for more than a year and half.

“As former congressman, Bob Etheridge knows how important it is to continue to create jobs and provide important services across the state,” Perdue said. “It is vitally important to continue to manage North Carolina Recovery funds responsibly and provide oversight as projects unfold, with an eye on the state's best use of recovery dollars in the coming months.”

The federal stimulus package has brought more than \$10.5 billion thus far in direct aid to North Carolina to rebuild and expand our state's critical infrastructure, create jobs, and provide additional money into the state through grants.

Nearly 80 percent of the state recovery funds have been dispersed and the money will continue to flow through at least 2012. Projects to date include train station expansions, highway improvements, new water and sewer projects for local governments, historic expansion of the state's broadband network, funding to keep teacher positions across the state and assistance towards single family home ownership.

In his new position, Etheridge will oversee how the funds are dispersed, ensuring that money continues to be spent in a timely fashion with high accountability, and will make sure the projects under contract are getting done.